Ransomware and other ugly viruses...

# **Enough to Make Communications Pros WannaCry**

"Oops, your important files are encrypted," was the message flashing on tens of thousands of international computer screens on Friday, May 12.

## **Internet Pirates**

What followed was a ransomware demand for \$300 in bitcoins, a digital payment system. The piracy ante was later raised to \$600 worth of currency.

## **Worldwide Catastrophe**

The WannaCry attack infected over 200,000 victims running outdated Windows software.

Hospitals, factories, government agencies, banks and businesses in more than 150 countries were affected.

## What's the Answer?

A May 17 editorial in the *Chicago Tribune* asked these big questions:

"Will this latest spate of attacks be a wake-up call to upgrade protections around the world? Or will many people hit the snooze button again?"

## **Constant Vigil Needed**

In today's networked environment, we're always online, which means we are continually vulnerable to malicious sneak attacks. But, it also allows us to use automatic updating technology.

## **No Time for Napping**

Make sure that you are not caught napping. Copresco urges you to consider the following antivirus protection action plan.

#### **Firewall Protection**

- 1. Your first line of defense is your computer firewall. It must be updated regularly to block unauthorized access to your system.
- 2. Be sure to install operating system updates as soon as they are available.

## **Back Up Regularly**

3. Back up your computer often. If you do have a problem, it won't be a total disaster.

Dastardly ransomware attacks can be foiled by complete system backups.

## **Easy as Pie**

Backing up has never been easier. The cloud makes backing up and storage of data easy.

Services like Dropbox make back up to the cloud simple and painless.

4. Make sure that you have antivirus and malware protection installed on all of your computing devices.

Check with your IT department for the latest software that is available.

5. Enable the software to automatically update your antivirus definitions.

## **Trash Talk**

- 6. Be suspicious of attachments, especially uninvited email. When in doubt, don't delay—trash it.
- 7. Set up your software to scan all the files you receive over the internet as well as external devices.

## **Don't Be Lax**

8. Confirm you are using the best virus protection possible on your workstations with your network administrator. You should also be assured that personal devices you may use are virusprotected.

#### **Include All Devices**

9. Check to see if your company has a server based virus protection system installed. If so, you should verify that it protects all of your firm's computers, including portable devices.

## **Your Battle Plan**

10. Remember that we are totally interconnected. You need to follow the same battle campaign strategy wherever

you work with your desktop and laptop computers, tablets and smartphones—at the office, coffee shop and at home.

And, don't forget to include your children or grandchildren's devices.

## **Make It Personal**

Even though you may be working in a virus protected business environment, it still pays to take the personal responsibility necessary to ensure that your computer software is up-to-date and your systems are safe and secure.

## **Spread the Word**

Feel free to send copies of this *Overnight Lite* issue to your business associates and friends with a wake-up call note encouraging them to take a look at their antivirus protection.

The better protected your friends are, the safer you are.

#### **A Global Problem**

To sum it up, viruses are an unfortunate fact of life in today's wired world.

Left unchecked, viruses can spread their infectious diseases around the globe—and into your domain—in a matter of minutes.

The good news is that these deadly infections can be eradicated with a healthy dose of antivirus therapy.

The remedy can save you hours of lost time, money and frustration.

## **Words of Wisdom**

So, please take Copresco's advice to heart. Don't hit the snooze button. Put your antivirus protection plan into action today!

## **Independence Day**

Copresco will be closed Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day.

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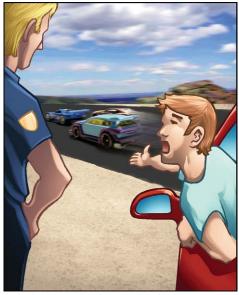




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Address Correction Requested

A teenager was speeding down the highway in a pack of other cars. But as he passed a speed trap, he got pulled over. "I know I was speeding, officer,



but there were plenty of other cars going just as fast," he protested. "Why am I the only one to get the ticket?" "Ever go fishing?" "Ummm, yeah," the startled teen replied. "Ever catch all the fish?

After a long and laborious robbery trial, the jury finally returned its verdict: innocent. The judge noticed that the defendant looked a little bewildered. "You're a free man," the judge reiterated. "Do you have any questions about that?" "Um, just one," the defendant replied. "Does this mean I have to give the money back?"

**Q:** What is the difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist?

**A:** The taxidermist usually leaves the hide.

Upon his retirement, a man was given a set of golf clubs. He decided to give them a try, and signed up for lessons. The pro showed him how to stand and how to hold the club. "Now," the pro instructed, "just hit the ball near that flag on the green." The novice smacked the ball straight down the fairway, where it rolled to a stop just an inch from the hole. "Now what?" The shocked pro could barely speak. "Well, the idea is to hit the ball into the hole." "Oh, sure," the retiree huffed. "Now you tell me."

Signs We Have Seen:

On a muffler shop: No appointment necessary—We'll hear you coming.

On a veterinarian's door: Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!

**Q:** Why did the chicken cross the basketball court?



**A:** Because the referee called a fowl!

A fine is a tax for doing bad. A tax is a fine for doing well.

"You are a poor fool who takes advice from bakery products."—Found in a fortune cookie

A group of American tourists was being guided through an ancient castle in Europe. "This castle is 600 years old," the guide explained to the gathered tourists. "Not a stone in it has been touched, nothing altered, and nothing replaced in all those years." "Imagine that," one woman exclaimed. "I think we have the same landlord!"

Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men spend thinking.



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